



**Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 1158**

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**Hearing Date:** February 4, 2004

**Committee On:** Health and Human Services

**Introducer(s):** (Landis, Dw. Pedersen)

**Title:** Prohibit certain ingredients in immunizations and provide for insurance coverage

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

4	Yes	Senator Jensen, Byars, Erdman and Stuthman
	No	
2	Present, not voting	Senator Maxwell and Johnson
1	Absent	Senator Stuthman

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**Proponents:**

Senator Landis  
Jennifer Dick  
Dr. Tom Gensler  
Robert

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Self  
Self  
Jilian

**Opponents:**

Tim Timmons  
Tom Jenkins  
Bill Mueller

**Representing:**

Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska  
Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America

**Neutral:**

Dr. Richard Raymond

**Representing:**

Nebraska Health and Human Services System

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:** The bill provides that no immunizations in the State of Nebraska may contain any mercury or other preservatives containing heavy metals, including but not limited to thimerosal.

The bill requires insurers in the State of Nebraska that provide insurance for immunizations pursuant to a fee schedule or on a percentage reimbursement basis to reimburse for immunizations without mercury or other preservatives containing heavy metals on the same fee schedule or percentage rate of the usual and customary charges as for immunizations

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containing mercury or other preservatives containing heavy metals immediately prior to January 1, 2006.

The bill has an operative date of January 1, 2006.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:** The committee amendment (AM 2627 ) replaces the bill as introduced. The amendment has an operative date of January 1, 2006, and requires that “any medical professional in Nebraska administering a vaccine containing mercury shall provide written notice in advance of the presence of mercury in such vaccine to the recipient of the vaccine or, if the recipient is a minor child, to the parent or guardian of the minor child.”

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**Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson**